



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Dr. Lee H. Arnold
Director

Volume 12, No. 12

December 2000

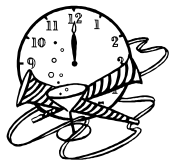
The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Hits an All-Time High

The number of jobs in Rhode Island reached an all-time high of 482,200 in November. This figure was up 6,400 jobs over the year. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2000 dropped to 3.6 percent, down 0.3 of a percentage point from the November 1999 figure of 3.9 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents declined by 1,500 from last year.

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's November jobless level of 3.6 percent was up 0.3 of a percentage point from October's eleven-year low of 3.3 percent. This reflected an increase of 1,700 in the number of unemployed. Nationally, the unemployment rate for November was 4.0 percent, up 0.1 percent from October's level of 3.9 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment figure was below the US average for the third straight month and the ninth time in the last eleven months.

"This month's small increase in the unemployment rate is not a cause for concern. Despite the slight increase in the November unemployment rate, the level remains at what many economists view as full employment," said Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. (Continued on Page 4)



Happy New Year!
2001

Groundhog (Job) Shadow Day 2001 School-to-Career in Rhode Island

It has often been argued that sometimes even the most extensive education and classroom training cannot ensure a complete understanding of a youngster's choice in pursuing a particular career. The state's five (5) Regional School-to-Career (STC) Partnerships have been aware of this problem for some time and are proud to announce the kick-off of the 4th annual Groundhog (Job) Shadow Day on February 2, 2001.

On this day, more than half a million students across America will get an up-close look at how the skills they learn in school are put into action in the workplace by shadowing a mentor as he or she goes through a normal day on the job. School-to-Career is based on the fundamental premise that education works best when students can connect their academics to the world of work, their future careers and their daily lives. Although Groundhog (Job) Shadow Day is the official catalyst, STC is an enveloping concept which adheres to the philosophy that meaningful experiences for students can take place at school, at a workplace or in an activity that integrates the two. These activities can include, but are not limited to the aforementioned job shadowing, mentoring, internships, and apprenticeships. Mentoring gives students an opportunity to build relationships with and learn from employers. Internships let students acquire skills and test themselves in the world of work. Apprenticeships teach students an occupation in a structured program sponsored by employers, labor unions or employee associations.

What are the benefits of this national endeavor? Educators will realize that teaching has more impact. Studies show that STC students' grades increased, absences declined and chosen course work was more

challenging. The employer community gets involved in enhancing the curriculum in classrooms. That's a hands-on way to ensure that education meets the needs of business and industry.

Get involved with School-to-Career!! It's easy and will provide you with *stable, work-ready and highly skilled employees!* Contact the Rhode Island School-to-Career Office for information on the partnership for the region in which you work or live. Remember.....making this new vision of education come to life will require the involvement of many Rhode Islanders: educators, parents, students, community organizations and most important of all, *YOU*, the Employer Community! Don't delay.....call today!

Rhode Island School-to-Career Office
(401) 462-8856

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99
Civilian Labor Force	509.8	508.2	511.3	505.4	505.5	507.1
Resident Employment	494.0	490.8	493.9	487.2	488.9	487.3
Unemployment	15.8	17.4	17.4	18.3	16.6	19.8
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.3%	3.9%

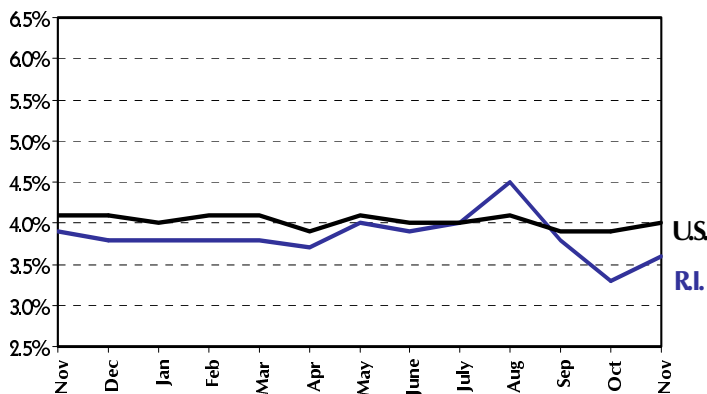
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99
Civilian Labor Force	141,025	140,893	139,895	141,052	140,918	139,834
Resident Employment	135,731	135,771	134,515	135,373	135,422	134,098
Unemployment	5,295	5,122	5,380	5,679	5,496	5,736
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.6%	3.8%	4.0%	3.9%	4.1%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 1999-2000



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Nov 00	Nov 99
Barrington	1.8	2.2
Bristol	2.6	2.7
Burrillville	2.6	3.2
Central Falls	5.3	4.5
Charlestown	3.7	3.6
Coventry	3.2	3.3
Cranston	3.2	3.4
Cumberland	2.3	2.8
East Greenwich	2.8	3.1
East Providence	3.1	3.8
Exeter	2.8	2.8
Foster	3.0	3.6
Glocester	1.9	2.9
Hopkinton	2.1	2.2
Jamestown	2.7	2.9
Johnston	3.3	3.5
Lincoln	2.4	3.2
Little Compton	2.1	2.4
Middletown	3.0	3.0
Narragansett	1.9	1.9
New Shoreham	15.0	12.1
Newport	3.1	3.7
North Kingstown	2.5	2.7
North Providence	3.2	3.5
North Smithfield	2.1	2.7
Pawtucket	3.3	3.7
Portsmouth	2.3	2.6
Providence	4.2	4.4
Richmond	1.1	1.6
Scituate	2.9	3.1
Smithfield	2.9	3.2
South Kingstown	2.2	2.8
Tiverton	3.0	2.9
Warren	3.0	3.0
Warwick	2.8	3.1
West Greenwich	2.8	3.0
West Warwick	3.6	4.1
Westerly	2.4	2.8
Woonsocket	3.7	3.9
State of R.I.	3.1	3.4

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Nov	Oct	Nov	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	2000	1999	Oct 00	Nov 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	6,248	5,203	5,976	20.1%	4.6%	72,988	80,669	-9.5%
Number of Payments	31,162	34,188	39,164	-8.9%	-20.4%	499,430	540,386	-7.6%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$7.8	\$8.5	\$9.5	-8.9%	-18.6%	\$121.3	\$126.0	-3.7%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	864	1,002	1,052	-13.8%	-17.9%	11,542	12,455	-7.3%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$299.2	\$288.0	\$270.2	3.9%	10.7%			

*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

There's Still Time to be Counted

The **2000 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey** has been mailed to all of this year's selected firms. If you've received a copy, please help us out by completing the form and returning it **as soon as possible**. Your participation is essential in order for us to produce timely and accurate wage and employment data.

If you have any questions or would like assistance completing the form, please call the LMI unit at (401)-462-8750.

To see how the information you provide will be used, visit our web site at:

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi>

Click on Wage Information



Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99	Oct 00	Nov 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	482.2	481.8	475.8	400	6400
GOODS PRODUCING	94.6	95.1	94.9	-500	-300
Contract Construction	20.0	20.1	19.3	-100	700
Manufacturing	74.6	75.0	75.6	-400	-1000
SERVICE PRODUCING	387.6	386.7	380.9	900	6700
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.6	16.6	16.4	-----	200
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	110.7	110.0	108.1	700	2600
Wholesale	20.4	20.6	20.1	-200	300
Durables	12.6	12.7	12.5	-100	100
Nondurables	7.8	7.9	7.5	-100	300
Retail	90.3	89.4	88.0	900	2300
Building & Garden Supplies	2.5	2.5	2.3	-----	200
General Merchandise	8.0	7.4	8.2	600	-200
Food Stores	16.2	16.2	16.2	-----	-----
Automotive Dealers	7.7	7.7	7.4	-----	300
Apparel & Accessory Stores	5.3	5.1	5.2	200	100
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.	2.6	2.6	2.6	-----	-----
Eating and Drinking Places	32.1	32.4	30.4	-300	1700
Miscellaneous Retail	16.0	15.5	15.7	500	300
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	30.0	30.0	29.7	-----	300
Depository Institutions	9.0	9.0	8.8	-----	200
Services	165.1	165.7	162.7	-600	2400
Hotels & Other Lodging	4.6	4.7	4.2	-100	400
Business Services	31.4	31.7	30.3	-300	1100
Auto & Misc. Repair	5.3	5.3	5.0	-----	300
Amusement & Recreation	5.2	5.6	5.1	-400	100
Health Services	51.5	51.4	51.8	100	-300
Educational Services	19.2	18.7	18.6	500	600
Social Services	15.5	15.4	15.4	100	100
Government	65.2	64.4	64.0	800	1200
Federal	10.4	10.3	10.3	100	100
State	18.3	18.4	18.5	-100	-200
Local	36.5	35.7	35.2	800	1300
Education	22.8	22.5	22.8	300	-----
Non Education	13.7	13.2	12.4	500	1300

□ Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99	Oct 00	Nov 99	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99
MANUFACTURING	74.6	75.0	75.6	-400	-1000	40.0	39.7	40.0	12.19	12.20	12.08
DURABLE MFG.	48.5	48.7	49.8	-200	-1300	40.0	39.8	39.9	11.97	11.99	11.88
Lumber/Furniture	2.7	2.7	3.0	-----	-300	41.4	38.9	38.1	12.02	12.00	11.88
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.0	1.1	1.2	-100	-200	40.8	38.1	42.2	13.91	13.84	13.90
Primary Metals	3.8	3.9	4.3	-100	-500	42.2	39.8	43.0	12.78	12.73	12.79
Fabricated Metals	8.4	8.3	8.4	100	-----	38.3	39.4	34.9	11.50	11.44	11.05
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.3	5.2	5.0	100	300	40.9	41.9	40.5	13.51	13.51	13.39
Electrical Mach.	5.4	5.5	5.4	-100	-----	40.5	38.2	41.8	11.42	11.58	11.59
Trans. Equipment	3.5	3.5	3.4	-----	100	41.7	40.2	41.6	14.45	14.38	14.50
Instruments	5.3	5.4	5.2	-100	100	38.7	39.2	39.6	12.59	12.67	12.58
Jewelry-Silverware	10.0	10.1	10.7	-100	-700	39.3	40.9	41.0	10.46	10.50	10.30
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.0	3.2	100	-100	39.1	37.8	40.3	10.44	11.43	11.42
NONDURABLE MFG.	26.1	26.3	25.8	-200	300	39.9	39.4	40.3	12.60	12.58	12.47
Food Beverage	3.2	3.2	2.8	-----	400	39.1	39.9	43.1	11.29	11.36	11.38
Textiles	6.8	6.9	7.0	-100	-200	39.2	38.1	40.7	10.87	10.82	10.77
Apparel	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	38.6	38.9	35.0	9.24	9.29	9.10
Paper Products	2.2	2.3	2.1	-100	100	40.1	38.4	36.5	12.39	12.29	11.78
Printing-Publishing	5.3	5.4	5.3	-100	-----	40.3	40.2	41.0	16.67	16.53	16.75
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.1	-----	200	41.0	41.3	38.8	13.95	13.85	13.93
Rubber Products	0.6	0.5	0.5	100	100	42.8	39.4	44.6	12.83	12.72	12.84
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.6	-----	-200	40.9	40.6	40.0	13.47	13.47	12.96
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	-----	-----	38.7	40.3	40.3	8.35	8.34	8.13

**Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Hits an All-Time High

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year)

Since November 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island has increased by 6,400 or 1.3 percent to an all time high of 482,200. Nearly all major industry divisions showed employment increases over the year with the largest occurring in Trade (+2,600) and Services (+2,400). Increases in Restaurant employment accounted for more than half the gain reported in the Trade sector. Within the Services industry, Business Services (+1,100) experienced the largest job gain, followed by Educational Services (+600), and Hotels and Other Lodging (+400). Government employment expanded by 1,200 due to increases in the Municipal sector. A 700 job increase noted in Contract Construction is attributable to job gains reported by Special Trade Contractors. Annual gains were also reported in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+300) and Transportation & Public Utilities (+200). The Manufacturing sector declined by 1,000 jobs over the year reflecting losses in Jewelry-Silverware (-700), Primary Metals (-500) and Lumber and Furniture (-300), which overshadowed gains reported in Food and Beverage (+400), Nonelectric Machinery (+300) and Chemical Products (+200).

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 400 over the month. Government reported the largest job gain mainly in municipal government and local educational institutions.

Government – Local Government employment expanded by 800 due mainly to temporary hiring for the November election. Federal Government

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Nov 00	Oct 00	Nov 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	174.1	174.0	168.3	3.4%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

employment increased by 100 over the month while employment in State Government decreased by 100.

Trade – Trade reported a net gain of 700 jobs over the month due to pre-holiday hiring in General Merchandise (+600), Miscellaneous Retail (+500) and Apparel & Accessory Stores (+200), offsetting losses in Restaurants (-300) and Wholesale Trade (-200).

Contract Construction – The Construction industry trimmed its payrolls by 100 jobs, with the largest declines occurring among Special Trade Contractors.

Manufacturing – Manufacturing employment showed a net loss of 400 jobs over the month. Several Manufacturing segments reported over the month losses of 100 jobs, out-numbering several segments that reported job gains of 100.

Services – Despite a monthly drop of 600 jobs, employment in the Services sector reached an all time November high of 165,100. Job gains reported in Educational Services (+500), Health Services (+100) and Social Services (+100) were surpassed by losses reported in Amusement and Recreation (-400), Business Services (-300) and Hotels and Other Lodging (-100).

Competitiveness Improvement Grants – Round XI

The Human Resource Investment Council (HRIC) and its partner agencies are gearing up to deliver the next round of funding for Rhode Island employers through the Competitiveness Improvement Grant Program. In March 2001, applications will become available for companies to apply for up to \$25,000 in grant funds to upgrade the skills of their workforce. Consortia of three or more companies are eligible for \$50,000 grants. Last year, forty-five companies received \$1.3 million in training money.

If your business is being affected by changes in technology or by a workforce in need of a skill upgrade to allow you to be competitive, these grants can assist by providing much needed training dollars. These funds can be used for training expenses including tuition, trainer fees, training materials and wages paid while in training. All grant recipients will be required to match grant funds on a one-to-one basis with a minimum of 25% cash. The balance of the match can be an in-kind cost such as employee time while in training.

Proposals will become available in March 2001 and will be due on April 27, 2001. The proposals will be rated in May and the awards made in June.

Free grant-writing workshops are offered to assist local businesses. Former grant recipients will be available to offer their expertise and experience. Space for these supportive efforts is limited so reserve your spot now. Call for information or any questions you may have.

Human Resource Investment Council
Mavis McGetrick
(401) 462-8862